

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1689 – HB 1909

March 23, 2018

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Adds restraint of a dog with a chain, cord, tether, cable or similar device while a natural or manmade disaster is imminent or occurring to the offense of cruelty to animals.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (013589, 015862): Amendment 013589 deletes and replaces language in the original bill such that the only substantive change is to specify that restraint of a dog with a chain, cord, tether, cable or similar device while a natural or manmade disaster is imminent or occurring is an offense of cruelty to animals when the dog suffers bodily injury.

Amendment 015862 deletes and replaces language in amendment 013589 to specify that the legislation pertains to unattended restrained dogs and to define “unattended” as a person not being present with a dog and exposed to the same adverse environmental conditions as the dog.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 39-14-202(g), cruelty to animals is a Class A misdemeanor and a second or subsequent conviction is a Class E felony.
- Based on information provided by the Department of Correction, in the past three years there has been one admission to the state correctional system resulting from cruelty to animals. Any impact to the department is estimated to be not significant.
- There will not be a sufficient change in the number of misdemeanor or felony prosecutions for state or local government to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.

SB 1689 – HB 1909

- Any increase in caseloads to the courts, district attorneys, and public defenders will be absorbed utilizing existing resources. Any impact to the court system is estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/amj